

Remarks

Applicants have read and considered the Office Action dated May 22, 2003 and the references cited therein. Claims 1, 12 and 20 are amended.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-17 and 20-21 were rejected as being unpatentable over Street in view of Watannabe. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to recite the features of claim 9. Applicants assert that neither Street nor Watannabe teach the coordination and controls of the various operations to achieve the present invention. Moreover, even if combined, the references do not achieve the present invention.

In the Action, the Examiner asserted that Street discloses a controller connected to the light valves and the sensor array and that it would have been obvious to Watannabe's illumination to not only control the operation of the light valves and sensor array, but also the illumination unit. Applicants assert that not just the control of various devices, but controlling the timing of all of the various systems and operations achieves the stereoscopic device of the present invention and provides for improved detection that is neither shown nor suggested by Street or Watannabe, even when combined. The combination does not achieve the controlled timing of light valves, a sensor array and an illumination unit in a coordinated manner to achieve improved detection. Applicants assert that the rejection of claim 1 is overcome by the present Amendment. Moreover, the claims depending therefrom are also believed to be allowable.

In addition, method claim 20 has been amended to incorporate method steps of the controller of claim 9. Applicants assert that the various steps and coordination that are achieved with this method are neither shown nor suggested by the prior art or any combination thereof.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/699,624
Reply to Office Action of May 22, 2003

A speedy and favorable action on the merits is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at (612) 336-4728.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

Dated: _____

4/21/04

By: _____



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Examiner Interview Summary

Applicants' Representatives spoke with Examiner Shawn An via telephone on April 21, 2004. Claims 1 and 9 were discussed. Applicants' Representatives asserted that the features of claim 9 and that the control and timing was neither shown nor suggested by any of the prior art or combination thereof. It was decided that a Request for Continued Examination would be filed along with an Amendment incorporating the features of claim 9 into independent claims 1 and 20. The Examiner would review the Amendment and would contact Applicants' Representative if the Amendments did not place the application in condition for allowance in the Examiner's view. Applicants' Representatives thanks the Examiner for the courtesy and consideration extended during the interview.